in all nations and languages ; superstition has declared them to be sacred, and philosophy has represented them as perfect; and this circumstance is sufficient to prove that they are advantageous. The fact that corresponding numbers meet us in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, as we are now to show, is a proof of the skilful adaptation of these departments of nature to the wants and character of mankind.

(4.) In VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY forms and numbers hold a very important plo.ee. " The form of a living body," says Cuvier, "is still more essential to it than its matter." It may be added, that the same form is retained amid a great diversity of functions. Organs similar in shape serve diiibrent purposes in different species of plants. *

The simple symmetry—that is, with the right and left side alike—is found in minerals, but becomes more frequent among plants and animals. The oblong, or two-and-two-membered symmetry, may be traced extensively among crystals and flowers, as may also the three-mcmbered symmetry, which is one of the characteristics of the vegetable kingdom. The square is a common form in. crystals, but does not seoru suited to vegetable or animal organization. The pentagonal is to bo found, to a limited extent, in the animal kingdom, and is by far the mo.st common among flowers. Plants are divided into three grand classes: the first, acotyledons, without seed-lobe, such as lichens and fungi; secondly, monocotyledons, or one-seed-lobe<l, to which belong grapes, lilies, and palms; and, thirdly, dicotyledons, or two-seed-lobcd, such as common garden plants arid trees. In some of the first of these the prevailing number is two, or multiples of two, as may bo .seen in the number of teeth at the mouth of the capsule of mosses. In the second it is three, or multiples of three, as in the inflorescence of ilio

tulip. In the third it is five, as in the geranium. In the geranium we have counted five branches, live leaf-stalks, five main veins,, five sepals, five petals, and multiples of five in the inner organs of the inflorescence.

When a plant has two floral envelopes, the outer is called the calyx, and the inner the corolla. The calyx, or outer whorl of leaves, consists of two or more divisions called sepals, usually green; and the corolla, of two or more divisions called petals, usually of some bright colour. Now, we find thai; the petals